

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 25 have been amended by incorporating the subject matter of claims 5 therein. Claim 5 has thereby been cancelled.

Entry of the above amendments at this late stage in prosecution is respectfully requested. Applicants did not make these amendments previously, as Applicants did not believe that such amendments would be necessary in order to obtain allowance of the case.

Claims 1, 4, 7-11, 18-19, 21 and 22-25 have been rejected under 35 USC §103, as obvious over Parker, et al. in view of Arnold, et al. In response, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Applicants submit that neither reference teaches or suggests the amount of plasticizer which has been incorporated into claim 1. Because neither reference teaches or suggests the elements of the claims, Applicants submit that the present claims are not rendered obvious in view of the cited combination. Applicants submit that absent some teaching or suggestion, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to incorporate the amount of plasticizer into the adhesive as claimed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present claims are nonobvious in view of the cited combination and request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7-11, 18-19, 21, and 22-25 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al., in view of Arnold, et al.

Claims 5-6, 12 and 14-16 have been rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al. in view of Arnold, et al. and further in view of Schlueter, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent 5,942,301). In response, Applicants traverse the rejection.

As set forth above, the primary and secondary references do not teach or suggest the amount of plasticizer as claimed. The Examiner relies on Schlueter, Jr. et al. as teaching the amount of claimed plasticizer of former claim 5. Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to use the amount of plasticizer taught by Schlueter, Jr., et al. as claimed, because the plasticizer of Schlueter, Jr., et al. is completely different from the plasticizer as claimed. Schlueter, Jr., et al. does not teach or suggest the claimed plasticizers including alcohols, amines,

thiols, organic acids, oligomers, and mixtures thereof. Instead, the reference at column 10, lines 28-29, teaches a plasticizer of dialkyl phthalate. Therefore, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art faced with the teachings of a plasticizer comprising dialkyl phthalate, would not have been motivated to use the same amount of the claimed plasticizer in the claimed adhesive. There would have been no expectation of success that the use of a completely distinguishable plasticizer in a different adhesive would work well as the amount of plasticizer in the claimed adhesive. Therefore, Applicants submit that the present claims are not rendered obvious in view of the cited combination. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-6, 12 and 14-16 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al. in view of Arnold, et al. and further in view of Schlueter, Jr. et al.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al., Arnold, et al., and Schlueter, Jr., et al. in view of Yamasaki, et al. In response, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Applicants point out that claim 13 ultimately depends from claim 1 which now includes the recitations of claim 5 therein. Applicants submit that Yamasaki, et al. does not teach the deficiencies of the primary, secondary and tertiary references. Applicants further submit that the teachings of Yamasaki, et al. would not have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to use the claimed amount of plasticizer. Therefore, Applicants submit that present claim 13 is not rendered obvious in view of the cited four-reference combination. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al., Arnold, et al., and Schlueter, Jr. et al. in view of Yamasaki, et al.

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al., Arnold, et al., and Schlueter, Jr. et al. in view of Pistoia. In response, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Applicants point out that claim 17 ultimately depends from claim 1, which now includes the recitation of the claimed amount of plasticizer. Applicants submit that Pistoia does not teach or suggest the amount of claimed plasticizer. In addition, Applicants submit that the teachings of Pistoia would not have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to use the amount of claimed plasticizer in the adhesive as

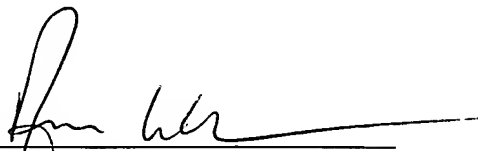
claimed. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 17 is not rendered obvious in view of the claimed combination. Accordingly, Applications request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Parker, et al., Arnold, et al., and Schlueter, Jr. et al. in view of Pistoia.

In view of the above arguments and amendments, Applicants submit that all claims should now be in condition for allowance. Early indication of allowability is respectfully requested.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, s/he is hereby authorized to call Applicant's Attorney, Annette L. Bade, at telephone number (310) 333-3682.

Respectfully submitted,



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